

Dear Legislators,

As a parent of an Autistic son as well as a being in the Health Care field I must **OPPOSE HB 5537, section 6**. My son has received both ABA and Speech Services and they are very DIFFERENT. Both are incredible important in their own areas but should not cross over each other, especially without training. My son has made many strides and was once on State service but is now free from them. As Autistic, ABA servers by licensed provides would not have made that possible. Below are some addition points for your consideration.

ABA is not currently within the scope of practice of Speech Language Pathologists.

Speech Language Pathologists are not required to take any classes in behavior analysis, nor do they have any training or experience requirements related to the provision of behavior analytic services as part of their training to become SLP's.

Consumers of ABA services would be negatively impacted by this modification to an SLP's scope of practice.

Behavior Analysis and the scope of practice of Behavior Analysts has been defined in existing CT legislation, and this expansion of an SLP's scope of practice would negatively impact other professionals including but not limited to Board Certified Behavior Analysts and School Psychologists.

Any proposed expansion of an SLP's scope of practice must first be reviewed in accordance with Public Act 11-209, An Act Concerning the Department of Health's Oversight Responsibilities Relating to Scope of Practice Determinations for Health Care Professionals.

~ Thank You

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